

Youth Admits \$11,000 Theft, Police Assert

Money Missing From Bank Where Ehrman Was Employed as Clerk: He Says All but \$2 Is Gone

Arrested at Hotel Here Declares He Was Host to 3 in Atlantic City and Girl Got Away With \$5,000

A ten-day sojourn in Atlantic City with his brother and two girls dissipated the greater part of \$11,000 he is charged with having stolen from the National City Bank, Guillermo Ehrman, a nineteen-year-old Panamanian, confessed yesterday, the police say.

Ehrman had charge of the registered mail department in the bank. The theft upon which the accusation against him was based was not discovered until October 1. Detectives Mayer and Brown arrested him here yesterday.

The youth, who is said to come from an excellent family, went to work in the bank, at 55 Wall Street, December 10 of last year. His duty was to receive and sign for all incoming registered mail, to enter its receipt on a book and to turn the packages over to the cashier. Ehrman's widowed mother, his brother, Robert, and he had come from Panama about a year before Guillermo went to work in the bank and were living on West Seventy-fourth Street.

Mailed from a Western Bank

On August 4 of this year, his reputed confession relates, Ehrman found himself "broke" and the rent of a separate apartment occupied in Cathedral Parkway overdue.

"Right after I got back to the bank," the police quote him as saying, "a messenger brought in a bunch of registered packages. I slipped one of them into the pocket of my overcoat, which hung in a locker when no one was looking, and went on with my work. I covered it by making two entries in the book for one of the other packages."

When he left the bank that afternoon, the detectives say Ehrman told them he stopped at the hotel, at 30 Wall Street and tore the wrapping from the package. It contained a check of \$10, \$20 and \$100 bills mailed from a Western bank. Ehrman hurried to his mother's house, it is alleged, and there was \$10,000 in the package and hid it in the lining of a sofa.

For twelve days the clerk kept on at his tasks in the bank, in the meantime, according to the police, he appropriated another registered package, this one containing \$1,000 in currency. He resigned August 16. His movements thereafter and his confession to the detectives say he himself narrated them.

Roll Always About Same Size

"My brother, two girl friends and I went to Atlantic City and put up at the Blackstone Hotel. The four of us had a suite of rooms, and put the money in my trunk. One of the girls used to help herself when she needed any change. I never had any idea she was taking very much, though, because whenever I looked at the roll it was always about the same size. Of course, I paid the bill for all of us. We had the best there was of everything and hit the high spots."

The tenth day after we reached Atlantic City, the two girls beat it. Then I examined the roll of bills more carefully. I found that one of the girls had been taking the hundreds and twenties downstairs and changing them into \$1 bills. She would put single dollars on the inside of the roll and take big bills. She got away with about \$5,000 in this manner. Robert and I waited around for a few days and then he went back to New York, where I left him and went to Buffalo.

Warrant Issued

Assistant District Attorney Richard Murphy caused a search warrant, charging grand larceny, to be issued for Ehrman on October 9. Detectives from Deputy Commissioner Lahey's staff and from the National Surety company tracked the fugitive to Buffalo and Toronto, but there lost the trail.

His mother, in the meantime, had moved from West Seventy-fourth Street to Riverside Drive, and they kept close tabs on her mail. They discovered she received frequent letters bearing the imprint of Cook's Hotel, in this city. Yesterday Mayer and Brown indicated the hotel register and learned that a "William G. Thompson" was staying there. Guillermo is the Spanish equivalent for William. They went to Thompson's room and its occupant admitted he was the person they sought.

Ehrman's alleged confession was made in Deputy Commissioner Lahey's office, the detectives say.

"Have you any of the \$11,000 left?" they asked him just before he was led to a cell.

The boy stuck his hand into his trousers pocket and drew out a \$2 bill.

"That's all," he said, according to the police.

A. J. Talley Denounces "Wickedness" of Stage

Assistant District Attorney Tells Why Managers Are Not Prosecuted

"The producer of an immoral play or the publisher of an obscene book is more deserving of a prison sentence than a thief or a gambler. Alfred J. Talley, Assistant District Attorney, told members of the Newman Club, Columbia University, last night.

"Today in this city," Mr. Talley declared, "there are plays unit for production. There are productions in which passion and looseness of manner and speech are featured and emphasized, plays in which womanhood is degraded in a manner which a few years ago would not have been tolerated. These plays are featured and emphasized, and the sense of decency, morality and the sense of decency, without which no nation under heaven can long survive.

There are statutes which make it a crime to present obscene or indecent plays or exhibitions, but the difficulty in prosecuting the producers is twofold. First, public support would be lacking, and secondly the advertising which would be required for the prosecution would unfortunately draw to the theaters thousands of the morbidly curious and enrich the managers."

"Reg'lar Piker, Is the Mayor" Opines School Board, Cat

"Kicking on a \$6.50 Board Bill and We Chasing Out the Big and Little Rats, to Say Nothing of the Country Mice From New Jersey"

"Meow!" cried Stump, the Board of Education cat, arching her furry back and clawing the cement floor of the textbook depository.

"Funny fellow, the Mayor, eh, Nigger? Did you know he was putting up a howl about paying \$6.50 for our board?"

The sleek and slender feline creature addressed as Nigger stroked a very black face with a very black paw and purred its assent.

"Reg'lar piker, mother. Wonder who he thinks has been catching all the mice in this chilly old basement for all these years?"

"Yes, a queer fellow, John F.," murmured the veteran rat catcher meditatively. "But most politicians are, my child. Here I am, an employee of the city and in good standing, a member of one of the oldest cat families of Greater New York, with brothers and cousins who sniffed gas in the World War. And the Mayor is raising a racket about the price of my liver and milk and being contemptuous of the old budget! Why, Nigger, I've been chasing rats night and day for the administration since they brought me across the bridge, and never have had a minute's vacation!"

Feed or Strike, Says Mother

"Maybe they're sore on us, mother, because your folks were born in Brooklyn," suggested the debutant daughter naively.

"Dear me, no!" cried the mother cat. "Mayor Hylan is from Brooklyn. And I must say that I'm being given shabby treatment by a fellow citizen. But budget or no budget, my child, we've got to be fed. The city's feed us there is one thing we can do—strike! It's being done nowadays. Not a very nice thing for city employees, they tell me, but one must eat—really, one must."

The basement colloquy was interrupted by the pattering of footsteps.

Film Actress Sues For Trust Fund Held by Parents

Muriel Ostriche Brady Asks for Accounting of \$32,000 Given Father and Mother Before She Was Married

Mrs. Muriel Ostriche Brady, known to movie fans as Muriel Ostriche, wants to know when she was "emancipated" by her parents. The screen actress has brought a suit against her father, Abraham Ostriche, a manufacturer of children's clothing, and against her mother, Mrs. Miriam Ostriche, who live at the Hotel San Remo, for an accounting for \$32,000, which Mrs. Brady says she turned over to her parents from her earnings, to be held in trust until she should become of age.

Mrs. Brady, whose husband is Frank A. Brady, an architect and builder, was a girl of fifteen when she first appeared as an "extra" in motion pictures. That was eight years ago, her attorney, Edward W. Drucker, says. Her present contract calls for a salary of \$500 a week, whether working or waiting for a part.

Before her marriage, Miss Ostriche says, she used to turn all her earnings over to her parents. Two years ago she became of age and was married. Before the marriage, she says, the actress asked her mother and father for an accounting. According to her lawyer, she was told that she had no interest in the money, as she was an emancipated child and her parents were entitled to her earnings.

Mr. Drucker explained yesterday that Miss Ostriche really does not need the money, her husband having independent means, but she does insist on knowing just at what age she was "emancipated" and became a family entity, so that she can figure out how much she is entitled to if the contention of Mr. and Mrs. Ostriche is upheld. All that the plaintiff asks, she says, is that her parents account to her and place the money in trust, so that she can get it at some future time—"any time," she said, "even in twenty years, if necessary. Justice Giegehr will hear the case to-day."

Labor Delegate Killed In Union Headquarters

Longshoreman Arrested for Murder Has Confessed to Shooting, Police Say

Lawrence Walsh, of Corona, L. I., delegate of Local #24, International Longshoremen's Union, was killed yesterday afternoon in the headquarters of the local, 785 Eleventh Avenue. The police say that John Kerr, of 453 West Fifty-fourth Street, a candidate for Walsh's office in the union, confessed he shot the delegate, asserting he fired in self-defense.

Walsh and several other members of the local were standing in the room on the second floor of the Eleventh Avenue building, when, it is alleged, Kerr entered. An altercation began and Walsh is said to have struck Kerr, inflicting a deep gash over his eye. At this, according to the police, Kerr stepped back, drew a revolver and fired twice. One bullet penetrated Walsh's chest and the other went wild.

Edmund Redding, of 710 Tenth Avenue, and Phil Sheridan, also longshoremen, took Walsh to Roosevelt Hospital in a taxicab. He was dead when they arrived there.

Captain Walsh, of the 4th Inspection District, questioned Redding, who denied knowing the identity of the delegate's assailant, but gave a description of him. Kerr was arrested later in a saloon at Fifth Street and Tenth Avenue. When searched at the West Forty-seventh Street station, according to the police, a revolver, with two discharged cartridges, was found inside the leg of his underwear.

Walsh was thirty-two years old and Kerr is the same age. Kerr is treasurer of the local.

Each had been nominated on a rival ticket for delegate. At a meeting of the local last Monday night Kerr did not show up, and the ballots were ordered printed without his name. Kerr is said to have laid this to the machinations of Walsh.

Tammany Hall Aldermen Board Day Inquiry

Quinn, Bitterly Attacking Hirshfield, Vainly Tries to Have Charges Against Markets Head Investigated

Moran Assails Grand Jury Board President Declares Inquisitors Seek Only to Coerce Administration

The Tammany majority in the Board of Aldermen yesterday clamped the lid down tight when an effort was made by Alderman William F. Quinn, Republican, to investigate the Department of Markets, especially the charges made by the Rev. Jonathan C. Day, former head of the department, who was removed by Mayor Hylan.

Alderman Quinn moved that the Committee on Rules be discharged from further consideration of his resolution introduced at the last meeting of the board calling for an administrative investigation of the department.

Hirshfield Attacked

President Moran, who will be succeeded on January 1 by a Republican, Mayor F. H. La Guardia, urged Alderman Quinn not to press his motion, saying that it should be taken up by the next board. Alderman Quinn replied that only members who were elected should be appointed as investigators.

"This calls for immediate investigation," continued Quinn. "It cannot wait. The Mayor has referred the matter to David Hirshfield, his Commissioner of Accounts. The Commissioner of Accounts is not capable of fairly and honestly investigating these charges, as he is involved in the matter in question. And in view of his past record."

Alderman Charles H. Hubert, Democrat, jumped to his feet protesting, saying that Alderman Quinn was not speaking to the motion. But the chair overruled him.

"He is not a fit subject to investigate anything in the City of New York," resumed Quinn. "In view of his public and private life."

"If you will submit any charges you have which are based on facts, not merely on a rumor floating through the air, the committee will consider your resolution on one," interrupted President Moran. There was a little laughter at the reference to "a rumor floating through the air."

Just before the board met Commissioner of Accounts Hirshfield made public a letter to Mayor Hylan in reply to the latter's request that he investigate Alderman Quinn's charges, in which the Mayor and Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, were named.

Alderman Quinn, he said, called at his office pursuant to a subpoena, accompanied by his counsel, and then the letter went on:

Hirshfield's Letter

"But under the rules of this office, established many years ago and followed by my predecessors, witnesses are not entitled to counsel. Who needed lawyers to tell me my office all he knew against Commissioner O'Malley the Alderman did not state. He did not have his counsel at his side last Tuesday when he viciously attacked and snapped at almost every one of his political foes."

"However, after the Alderman had seated himself I requested him to be sworn, but he refused to take the oath. He was then requested to give me evidence as he had to bear out his accusation of wrongdoing against Commissioner O'Malley and the Department of Public Markets in general, and he refused to do that, and he also refused to disclose the source of his information."

From his answers, manner of speech and general demeanor I am satisfied that Alderman Quinn has no knowledge or information whatsoever against the honesty of Commissioner O'Malley, and it appears to me that these accusations made by Quinn against Commissioner O'Malley are made for political purposes only, just as he has from time to time during the last years made groundless accusations against other city officials not of his political party."

"In view of the foregoing I recommend that, as far as Alderman Quinn is concerned, this incident be closed, and that in the future all his vicious outbursts be ignored as being unworthy of attention."

Cranks Cannot Stop Pinochle, Says Court

Rebukes Detectives for Arresting Folks Who Merrily Melded in Own Homes

Neither the law nor the prejudices of cranks can revoke the constitutional right of an American citizen to play pinochle, Magistrate Max S. Levine ruled yesterday in West 84th Street court.

Incidentally, he administered a severe dressing down to Detectives Joseph Mahoney and John Gunson, of Inspector Dominic Henry's staff, who had haled to court nineteen men they had taken red-handed in the act of melding kings and queens in several West End Avenue residences.

The defendants pleaded guilty, but the magistrate refused to accept the plea and discharged them.

"These arrests are a shame and an outrage," declared the court. "Since when, I would like to know, has an American citizen not had the right to play a game of cards in his own home? I play pinochle myself, and I would like to see you detectives try to arrest me for it."

The youths looked as though they would like to attempt that, but they vowed that they had no complaint of loud and boisterous talking by the pinochle players.

"Then you should have brought the neighbors here to testify," retorted the magistrate.

"You are dismissed," he informed the prisoners. "Go home and play pinochle to your hearts' content."

Wanamaker's The Christmas Store

JOHN WANAMAKER
Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co.
Broadway at Ninth, New York
Store Hours, 9 to 5:30

Good morning!
This is December 17!
The weather today will probably be cloudy and colder.

COURTESY
is the unspoken truth of gentleness and good manners go with it.

(Signed)
John Wanamaker

December 17, 1919.

Women's Redleaf suits

New shipment

We have awaited the arrival of these London-tailored clothes for several months. Now they come in time for country week-ends during the holidays.

Wonderfully smart

of Scotch tweeds and homespun (with that peaty smell that distinguishes the real thing in homespun and tweeds) in gray, putty color, two colors of rose, soft blue and mauve heather mixtures, brown and an ever-so-smart oyster white.

Made in belted, patch pocketed, typically English models with real horn or woven leather buttons (the white suits have white horn buttons). At \$75, \$85, \$95 and \$125.

Top-coats, too

for motor and travel, of Scotch and Blighty tweeds and Scotch homespun. In gray, brown and heather mixtures. \$85, \$95 and \$125.

Second floor, Old Building.

Ostrich fans—A sale

\$13.75 for five-plume style.
\$15 for seven feathers, uncurled.

Jade—American Beauty—coral—peon—Amber color—white—black.

Ostrich feathers are of very good quality and the mountings of imitation tortoise shell and imitation amber are well finished in every detail. Colors are exquisite.

Main Aisle, Main floor, Old Building.

Small FURS 25 per cent. less

Fur scarfs and neckpieces are among the most desirable of Christmas gifts—the sort that will invariably please the woman who receives it. And a gift that carries with it the lasting satisfaction of pleasure and comfort for many days to come.

Scarfs

Taupe wolf.....\$24 to \$42
Taupe fox.....\$35 to \$64
Stone marten.....\$45
Australian opossum.....\$13.50
Skunk opossum.....\$16.50
Taupe opossum.....\$15.75
Natural gray fox.....\$16.50

Muffs

Skunk.....\$40, \$50 and \$60
Natural gray fox.....\$17
Skunk opossum.....\$17.50
Taupe opossum.....\$15.75
Children's nutria muffs.....\$15

Second floor, Old Building.

Christmas blouses, \$5.95

Pretty, fluffy, shadow-lace blouses, lined with chiffon and trimmed with ribbons. Mostly made with round necks finished with lace-pleated frills.

Chiffon blouses with lace frills in pastel colors.

Just the charming, frivolous little thing a woman likes at holiday time. Excellent for gifts.

Second and Third floors, Old Building.

BELMAISON Interior Decorations

Presenting and Interpreting A New House in New York City

Built as an integral part of the Wanamaker Store

BELMAISON, as its name indicates, is a house of beauty, a house of beautiful things—of things that the most artistic nature could live a lifetime with. Things that have come down to this generation through many lifetimes, expressing the true beauty of each age which inspired them. Things that will live always—in their original or their recreated idea—because they are true.

Belmaison is in no sense a model house, nor a standard house. It will change from time to time because it is a living thing, a creative thing; evolving all the time, striving all the time to better express itself.

Belmaison is, therefore, a house of ideas and a house of inspiration. Belmaison is more even than this; it is a living, livable HOME that one just wants to move into and never leave.

Belmaison seeks to express harmony in decoration. There is variety, of course; no two of the dozen or more rooms in Belmaison are alike. Each room is individual. Each expresses a distinct thought and purpose. But the desire is not only to have each room in true balance, but to keep the whole house harmonious.

Belmaison is a unit of decorative expression that could be picked up bodily and set down among the finest homes of America, England, France or Italy (if such a fairy-like thing were possible) and it would hold its own with any comparison—not in lavishness of decoration or furnishing, for Belmaison is quite simple; but in the expression of a home of artistic conception.

Unlike the old House Palatial, which served its day and now disappears, Belmaison is not "a display," not merely a setting to "show off" furniture and rugs and decorative objects. Belmaison is a workshop. It has its own staff of interior decorators under the direction of Ruby Ross Goodnow—prepared to take in hand any house or any room or any decorating problem, small or large, and infuse into each job the spirit that shows itself so plainly in Belmaison, carrying through with patience and care all the tediousness of details that arise in workshop and labor, but losing none of the finer touch that is so often lost when unskilled hands attempt to put into form a beautiful idea.

Belmaison is now about as ready for inspection as it ever will be. Of course pieces of furniture, hangings, rugs, decorative objects, are being taken away into other homes almost as fast as we assemble them into rooms; and things at times will be upset, but those who have the gift of seeing the real spirit that creates will always find Belmaison beautiful and in almost perfect order and harmony. For the purpose back of Belmaison awakens in home-makers the idea of self-expression, a passion to make one's home as beautiful as possible—realizing that in making our homes beautiful we go far toward making ourselves and our lives beautiful.

(To be continued in much briefer form; but in the meantime—Belmaison is ready to receive your visit.)

Fifth Gallery, New Building.

John Wanamaker—New York

Some superb examples of Platinum Jewelry

Offered for Christmas at one-fourth under the market

Hoop ring—

Fine Kashmir sapphire, four and a half karat, with two diamonds set in artistic ring of platinum.....\$5,250

Regular selling price would be.....\$7,250

Bar pin—

Set with square cut diamond and calibre sapphires.....\$3,000

Regular selling price would be.....\$4,000

Brooch—

A beautiful bow-knot design brooch paved with diamonds.....\$2,450

Regular selling price would be.....\$3,300

Bar brooch—

Composed of diamonds and three very fine Oriental pearls with suspended garland of diamonds.....\$8,000

Regular selling price would be.....\$10,750

Ring—

Exceptionally fine specimen star sapphire of excellent color and marking, embellished by an unusual setting of diamonds and platinum.....\$3,000

Regular selling price would be.....\$4,000

Flexible Bracelet—

of platinum paved with diamonds and strapped with calibre sapphires.....\$4,500

Regular selling price would be.....\$6,000

Whoever gets one of these pieces for Christmas will get not only a superb gift but also the added intrinsic value, which as prices are going now, will grow greater as time goes on.

THE JEWELRY STORE
Main floor, Old Building—Tenth street and Broadway